

COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown

100 Riverview Center, Recreation Department

October 7, 2014

6:00 PM

1. Members Present: Marty Knight/Chairperson, Phil Cacciola, Marie Hurley, Keith Vinci, Richard Pelletier, Joseph Carta (via phone)

Absent: August DeFrance, Elderrean Paules

Staff Present: Andrea Gregg, Manager of Senior Services

General Public: None

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 6:00pm.

3. Public Hearing: none

4. Approval of Minutes: *A motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 3, 2014, was made by Phil Cacciola and seconded by Marie Hurley. Richard Pelletier abstained because he was not present. The motion was passed.*

Departmental Reports:

- Marty Knight asked that all committee members give a brief introduction of themselves to the new Manager of Senior Services, Andrea Gregg.
- Marie Hurley gave an update regarding the Mattabasett River Plant Pump Station. The project is staying in budget. The area is being cleaned up and plans are in and it is being prepared to start. They are getting ready to go out to bid probably the middle of this month. She should know more information at next month's meeting. A discussion ensued.
- Richard Pelletier gave a brief update regarding the Riverfront Development/South Cove. Governor Malloy has announced that the State will contribute \$2.6 million towards the riverfront redevelopment efforts. They will have to use multiple funding sources. They are looking into putting a bigger boat house with a community room upstairs so that it can be rented out for special events like weddings, parties, etc. A discussion ensued.
- Joseph Carta mentioned that he would like to schedule a time with Karen Nocera to go out and look at the door at River's Edge Condominiums and determine what has been done. A discussion ensued.
- Phil Cacciola spoke about his recent trip abroad to China. He mentioned that all of the walk signals in China are audible and that they also have the countdown listed in seconds. There is also a countdown on the regular street lights. He suggested that the Committee Concerning People with Disabilities reach out to the committee that is looking into the upgrades to the signals and provide them information in an attempt to stay ahead of the curve. Phil stated that the audio boxes/beepers should be where the actual buttons are currently located "Walk Light is Now On". Phil asked Marty if he could pursue making contact with the committee so that 5 years down the road, everything isn't obsolete. Marty would appreciate Phil pursuing this. A discussion ensued. Phil stated that the Committee needs to report issues to Sergeant Godwin at the Police Department.
- Richard Pelletier mentioned that he would like to see a no left-hand turn sign on Rte. 66 at Vine Street. A discussion was had regarding enforcement of dangerous turns in several areas of the

city. Keith Vinci stated that he thinks this Committee, with the help of the Police Department, should try and do some public outreach. If flyers were distributed, it could increase awareness of the rules pertaining to crosswalks. The recent fatal accident at Broad/Washington streets several weeks ago shows that there is a need for the outreach. They want to formally request Sgt. Godwin attend the next meeting to talk about public safety/awareness and the audible walk signals.

- Marty Knight mentioned that no one has come up with a replacement for Steve Shapiro. It needs to be a Republican, Independent or Unaffiliated person. They want the Committee to be a full slate of 9 people. Keith Vinci suggested maybe reaching out to Middlesex Hospital or Wesleyan University to see if someone had an interest in being on the Committee. Phil Cacciola said that the Committee is supposed to be comprised of (3) advocates (3) business/community people and (3) persons with disabilities. Richard Pelletier said that he will ask a friend who is on the Citizen Action Committee to see if he is interested. He is a business person (elevator salesman). The Committee agreed and suggested that perhaps he would bring a different perspective to the table. A discussion ensued.
- Richard Pelletier asked Marty Knight if anyone has contacted him regarding speaking at the next moderator's meeting with the upcoming election. Marty stated that no one has contacted him, but the City was told and Attorney O'Hearn explained that Marty is supposed to speak at the training. Marty stated that 2 elections have gone by where they did not have him attend the training. Keith Vinci suggested that the Committee formally send a letter to the Mayor's office through Laura Runte. Marty said that last year at the Middletown High polling station, the moderator did not know the system. They need to train their moderators or there is a legitimate claim against the city. Attorney O'Hearn explained that the city had options and if they don't do it, there is a liability. There was discussion regarding where the polling location currently at the Middletown Senior Center will be after they move. They want this followed up by Laura Runte in her letter to the Mayor's Office.
- Keith Vinci reiterated the action items again. The Committee would like Laura Runte to follow up on 1. Marty being a part of the moderator training sessions. 2. The polling location currently at the Senior Center where will it be going once they move. 3. Formally invite Sgt. Godwin to the next CCPD meeting being held on November 4, 2014.

Old Business

New Business:

- Andrea Gregg formally introduced herself as the new Manager of Senior Services. She also stated that Debbie Stanley was still the Acting Director.
- The October newsletter for the Senior Center is out and the Fall/Winter brochure for Recreation & Community Services is also out. The Lady Katharine cruise set for next Tuesday was a big hit and is completely booked.
- At the Senior Center, we are working on some new programs/services. We are looking to bring back the low vision clinic on a semi-regular basis. We are bringing in new programs such as; arthritis exercise program, book club, monthly birthday party and coffee with the manager.
- We are actively beefing up the senior services website by utilizing social media (both Facebook and Twitter) as well as giving our newsletter a much needed update.
- Laura Runte and Andrea Gregg will both be attending the State ADA conference on October 22, 2014.

Miscellaneous:

Adjournment: *A motion of adjournment was made by Richard Pelletier and was seconded by Keith Vinci. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bruni Runte